
Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 21st June 2021 at 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall

Present: cllr Spencer Burnham (SB), chairman Cathy Ellis (CE), cllr Jean Morgan (JM), cllr Charles Reader (CR), cllr Sue Ricketts (SR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and three members of the public.

89/21 To receive apologies for absence and welcome.

Apologies accepted from vice chairman Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB). The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested a change to the agenda to bring 101/21.e website to the beginning of the meeting.

101/21 e. website – the chairman advised that she and the clerk had discovered someone had hacked into the back of the community website and parish council emails last month. The website settings have now been changed and councillors will receive new passwords for their emails making it fully secure going forward. This has been a very uncomfortable and difficult situation as we are aware of who the intruder is. We are therefore seeking advice as to how we should handle it.

90/21 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 17th May 2021

The minutes were amended following a request to remove names in items 81/21 and 86/21 before being approved and signed.

91/21 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

83/21 the clerk advised we will need to apply for permission to change the parking sign in the layby on the Green and to erect a sign on Forge Coffee Shop & PO. As there is a cost associated with this, it was agreed it would be more beneficial to spend the money on taking out the centre notch of the layby to allow three cars to park off road. Councillors SB and CR have materials they could donate and the chairman will speak with Helen Howard at Northants Highways and get quotes to carry out the work. We will see how well the new (postcard) parking notices work and revisit the signage if we need to.

Action: CE/SB/CR

87/21 Helen Howard (Northants Highways) has advised they are aware of the standing water problems associated with the chicane and it is being looked into to ascertain if further capital investment is required to upgrade the existing gully system in Broad Lane. A road safety audit will be carried out on the chicane in due course which will identify any issues which need addressing with the design or its construction. If any measures are identified, remedial measures will be considered.

Update on goal usage on the Green – the chairman advised that a resident of the Green has shared his observations with the council; he noted that very few villagers are using the goals but lots of people from outside the village are using them and sometimes until late at night. Cllr CR advised that he was of the understanding that previous councillors had devised a schedule to remove the goals during cricket season and remove the cricket nets during football season; it was agreed to try and find out more.

All other matters are on the agenda or are being dealt with.

92/21 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

CE for item 93/21 – Greenstuff invoice.

JM for 99/21 and 102/21 – member of ERA and EM

93/21 Finance:

- a. Financial statement
- b. To note payments received
- c. To consider invoices to be paid

Account	£
Community	13,509.77
Business Saver	23,201.32
National Savings	5,875.36
TOTAL	42,586.45

Receipts since the last meeting	£	VAT £
Allotment rent for plot 4 and 8 (new tenants)	42.25	
Payments approved		
C. Knott (June salary)	608.57	0
HMRC (tax)	26.60	0
C. Knott (expenses incl. speed signs)	134.85	24.21
Freestone (notice board)	160.00	32.00
R&G (fertilising the Green)	510.00	102.00
SSE (electricity streetlights)	91.35	4.55
British Gas (electricity on the Green)	0.19	0
Cathy Ellis (Greenstuff) plants for planters	68.00	0

d. To receive an update from the internal controls' councillor

Cllr SB confirmed that he had checked the accounts and there were no discrepancies.

94/21 To receive updates and recommendations from planning representatives

S/2020/1438/FUL	Single commercial building providing 3 B1/B8 units with trade counters. Location: land west of Oxford Rd, Evenley	EPC: no objection SNC: APPROVED
S/2021/0461/FUL	Side & rear extension and a dormer on the front of the property. Location: 3 Anden Cottage, Mixbury Road, Evenley	EPC: objection SNC: APPROVED
WNS/2021/0325/FUL	Removal of condition 3 (use) of S/2015/1654/FUL (first floor over existing single storey garage, to create a two-storey habitable living space and a single storey porch). To be allowed to rent out the annexe. Location: 33 The Green	EPC: support with comments SNC: consults dispatched
WNS/2021/0402/FUL	Single storey front extension. Location: 3 Church Leys, Evenley	EPC: no comment SNC: consults dispatched
WNS/2021/0519/FUL	Extensions, garage conversion and detached carport. Location: 19 Prospect, Church Lane, Evenley	EPC: objection * SNC: consults dispatched

Cllr JM advised she was appalled that a site visit had not been carried out by a West Northamptonshire Council planning officer regarding application S/2021/0461/FUL before it was approved, despite EPC and neighbouring residents objecting to various areas of the application. It was agreed to write to West Northamptonshire Council with our concerns regarding planning officers decision making process.

Action: JM

*Regarding application WNS/2021/0519/FUL, plans were shown on the big screen and cllr JM talked councillors and residents through her thoughts; it was agreed to object to the application.

95/21 Co-option – to discuss applications from interested parties and resolve to co-opt

Charles Woodgate has shown an interest in joining the council but would like further information before he makes a decision.

96/21 Resolve to locate a bench on School Lane Green

The chairman advised a new bench would cost in the region of £400 to £500 which councillors agreed to in principle. It was resolved to consult with residents first to gauge opinion using a leaflet drop.

Action: CE/CK

97/21 Resolve to plant a tree for the Jubilee

It was resolved to mark the platinum jubilee in celebration of The Queen's 70 years of service to the nation in June of 2022 by planting one or more trees in the village and to light a beacon. The chairman proposed to organise a strategy meeting to discuss this and other ideas/projects going forward and to formulate a plan to share at the next meeting.

Action: CE

98/21 To reappoint a parish path warden

It was resolved to reappoint Angie Crompton as parish path warden. The clerk will submit details to West Northamptonshire Council and once all wardens are in place, they will contact Angie to arrange training sessions.

99/21 To provide an update on the summer fete/picnic on the Green on 28th August 2021

The chairman advised there will be a picnic on the Green on Saturday 28th August commencing at 2.00 pm. This will be a low-key event with tea tents supplied and cakes to be donated. The pizza van, fish & chip van and ice-cream van

will be invited to attend. Angie is chief music organiser and Evenley Matters have agreed to help with costs (up to £600). The parish council are covered for public liability and will consider further costs incurred.

100/21 To consider invoking the controlled communications protocol in respect of recent communications and introduce the area of improvement form

The chairman explained how the area of improvement form could be a useful tool and councillors resolved to use it going forward. This will allow a matter to be resolved quickly and formally without wasting time on further correspondence, especially for issues we can't agree on.

Councillors resolved to invoke the controlled communications protocol with regards to cllr JM's behaviour after seeking advice once more from Danny Moody. However, after further discussion with JM it was agreed to try mediation in the first instance in order to try to move forward, but to come back to the protocol if needed. The chairman will arrange a private mediation meeting ASAP.

Action: CE

It was also noted that if the clerk feels overwhelmed, she can use the grievance procedure including an informal first stage process.

101/21 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- a. **Allotments (CR)** allotment plots are fully tenanted again. Cllr JM suggested holding an allotment open day to showcase them as they are looking so good.
- b. **Pocket Park (CR)** nothing to report.
- c. **Street Lighting (SB)** Western Power and BT still haven't reconnected the lights to the new poles or removed the old ones on Church Lane. SB and the clerk with chase. **Action: CK/SB**
- d. **Village Hall (JPB)** it was good to be able to meet back in the hall and it was noted how nice it's looking.
- e. **Website (CK)** referred to at the start of the meeting.
- f. **Village Green and Trees (CE)** the entrance planters have been replanted and watered. The chairman thanked cllr CR for strimming.
- g. **Newsletter (CE)** the summer edition has been published.
- h. **HS2 & Highways (CE)** the next liaison meeting will take place on 2nd July.
- i. **West Northamptonshire Council (JM)** Information on the new council can be found on our community website at: <http://www.evenleypc.org.uk/county/west-northamptonshire-council.html>. The telephone number for the council is 0300 126 7000.

102/21 Correspondence received

- Response from Northants Highways regarding our request to reduce the speed limit on Bicester Hill to 40 mph – unfortunately after consideration, the speed limit review panel considered that the current limit remains appropriate. Thank you to all those of you who got in touch to try and help with this.
- Two x FOI requests received from Michael Baul and Jean Morgan – the clerk has responded to both.
- Notification of abandoned vehicle Church Leys – reported to the Police by a resident and has since been removed.
- HS2 updates including A43 night time northbound road closures, the temporary closure of Featherbed Lane between 14 -28th June, new dates for demolition of Finmere bridge and a community update for the area – all circulated via Mail Chimp.
- Summer Reading Challenge and Fully Booked information – circulated via Mail Chimp.
- Request for information held on Evenley Residents Association (ERA) – the clerk has responded with relevant contact information. Cllr JM advised that information is available on the village website at <http://www.evenleypc.org.uk/local-clubs/era.html>. There is a shared bank account for Evenley Matters (EM) and ERA and they are only required to hold one meeting per year however, last year this wasn't possible due to Covid-19. They are looking for new members.
- Invitation to Independence Day celebrations at RAF Croughton on Saturday 26th June 2021 – councillors to respond individually.

103/21 Councillor questions

- Following the recent chaos through the village after road accidents and closures around Brackley it was agreed to try and set up an emergency reaction plan involving councillors and residents (perhaps a WhatsApp group) and to write to the police and crime commissioner asking for help to relieve pressure on the village. Cllr CR suggested it might be helpful to erect signs during emergencies saying 'no through road' and don't follow your sat nav' but we need permission to do this. We should also join forces with Hinton and Croughton.
- Cllr JM advised the number for Brackley Cottage Hospital is 01280 313166. The clerk will put this on the community website.
- Cllr JM advised that residents have approached her to ask whether the tree on the island in Church Lane can be reduced in height. The chairman responded to say this tree has already been looked at and is safe.

- Some of the trees on Mixbury Road are unsafe. Cllr CR has attended to some of them and will attend again to see if anything more can be done before the clerk writes to the landowner.
- Bins are being left out long after bin day collections. The clerk will circulate a village email reminding residents to take them in as soon as possible after they've been emptied to avoid them becoming an obstruction.

104/21 Public Participation session (members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman)

- A resident thanked councillors and villagers for their help with directing traffic during the recent incident. She advised she is working with Brackley Youth Engagement (BYE) and will provide further details going forward.
- A resident raised concerns over meetings and suggested they should be recorded. The clerk will add this to the next agenda for discussion.

105/21 Close

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

The minutes of a council meeting are a public record of who attended and the decisions that were made.

The next meeting will be held at Evenley Village Hall on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Signed: Cathy Ellis

Dated: 19th July 2021